



**PARKS &
PARKWAY
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dan Keys
Chairman

Barbara Kuhl
Kimberlee Misek
Robert Silverman
Randy Wagoner

MINUTES
PARKS & PARKWAY ADVISORY BOARD
Ed Burke Recreation Center 11400 NE 9th Court
Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – Barbara Kuhl, Kimberlee Misek, Robert Silverman, Randy Wagoner and Dan Keys were present; Commissioner Barbara Watts was in attendance as an audience member. No staff members were present as Krishan Manners had a last minute urgent matter to attend to.
 2. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS – Budget discussions. See new business.
 3. PUBLIC COMMENT (PERMITTED FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM) – As indicated below.
 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Minutes of May 20th and June 17, 2015 were approved unanimously.
 5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. **General median maintenance** – No Staff Report was available.
 - B. **Tree removal and tree trimming issues** – Work has commenced. The Board discussed some of the work that had been done on 113 Street at 8th Court as being poorly executed. In particular, sloppy chainsaw work that caused damage and the stub cutting of some limbs. The Board reiterated that it was desirous of having major, equipment intensive work accomplished by the contractor, leaving the minor tasks to Village staff.
 - C. **Athletic field turf maintenance** – Barbara Kuhl reported that the Manager's report indicated that the field had been fertilized and treated for mole crickets. Mr. Keys suggested that staff provide the highest levels of fertilization possible (possibly greater than now being provided) at this time in order to take advantage of the warm wet weather for recuperative growth.
- Lighting** - As a side note, Barbara mentioned that at a recent Commission meeting, the Biscayne Park Foundation offered the Commission \$2,000 from its fund raising efforts towards "lighting" at the Recreation center. The Board discussed the advisability of doing any lighting prior to a more comprehensive study being done.



Kimberlee Misek was going to see if she could get a lighting contractor she works with to assist in the process. The following motion was made and passed unanimously: "The Parks and Parkways Board recommends that a lighting study of the entire park area be done before installation of any lighting at the Recreation Center is commenced,"

D. Highway Beautification Grant Proposal made for median of NE 6th Ave – No report given.

E. Sixth Ave. Bridge Grant – Barbara Kuhl reported that the Manager's report indicated that staff was investigating the installation of electrical service at the bridge sight, apparently to support some sort of irrigation system. The Board did not know if this was for the installation of a pump or for timers related to a city water supply controller. Kimberlee Misek advised that contrary to previous discussions, she believed that water could be pumped from the canal.

Dan Keys questioned the need or advisability of reestablishing soil rings around the plant material recently planted. He advised that he believed that this was unneeded for the retention of irrigation water at this point. He added that good horticultural practices would be to actually remove the soil that constituted the initial soil rings so as not to have this soil cover the roots of the plant material. He added that soil placed on top of root systems (or allowed to erode to that location) would encourage the development of girdling roots.

Mr. Keys advised that he had not been contacted about providing assistance to staff with the location of the ground cover plant material on the West side planting. This assistance was offered at the May meeting.

F. Discussion of path forward for design and construction of secondary entrance signage related to grant funding – Barbara

Kuhl advised that the Manager's Report indicated that surveys were being done for the sign locations and that bidding of necessary work was processing forward. Apparently, curbing at the sign locations would be considered as new fiscal year expenditure.

G. Tree Fertilization – No report.

H. Million Orchid Project of Fairchild Garden – No report.

I. New proposed swale ordinance – Barbara Kuhl reported that the Commission decided to postpone the section of the Swale



Ordinance dealing with what could be planted on the Swale by residents, with the possible exception of the issue of maintenance responsibility for those plant materials.

J. **Resolution of "Conflicting Tree Location" issues** – No report given.

K. **Restoration of 6th Ave irrigation** – No progress.

L. **Discussion of landscaping for new administration building** – Kimberlee Misek provided site plan drawings of the new administration building, which showed that there was not going to be any raised planting area division between NE 114 Street and the parking area of the facility. This is resulting in a large asphalted area. The Board had pointed out this condition to staff several months ago prior to the finalization of the site plan and asked that the condition be remedied, if possible. The Board member's discussed their disappoint that changes were not made prior to construction of the building.

M. **Discussion of changes made to landscape in front of 113 st entrance sign** – No discussion.

N. **Discussion regarding proposal to repurpose athletic field** - Barbara Kuhl mentioned that Commissioner Watts had suggested a Charette for the purpose of discussing the idea of repurposing the athletic field. Commissioner Watts clarified that she did so because she thought that the issue needed more discussion even as to the advisability of any repurposing.

The Board again discussed its previous motions against repurposing the athletic field. The Board questioned the need for a different facility and members wondered what support if any was behind the repurposing effort. The Board members opined that various desired facilities, such as a vita course or similar exercise facility could be incorporated into the Village park system and that many discussions have taken place at Parks and Parkways and Median Review meetings over the years regarding this matter. The Board and its several professionals and otherwise well informed members are willing to provide further advice on this matter as it and its members are charged to do by Board enabling legislation.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Budget Discussion** –

1. The Board discussed the need for qualified direction of the tree-trimming contractors and suggested that funding for an Arborist be provided for this purpose. The Board discussed the general need for tree trimming to be addressed prior to other new projects being



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- moved forward. The need for specific funding for the arborist, removal of conflicting trees and dead and diseased trees and for major structural pruning of trees was discussed and encouraged.
2. The board made and passed the following motion, unanimously: "That the Board recommends that a Millage Rate of 9.7 Mills be maintained in part to address the need for deferred tree maintenance". The Board added that \$20,000 - \$50,000 could responsibly be spent in the next fiscal year to begin to address these issues. The Board further suggested that this funding, if provided, be specifically identified in a separate line item so that it could not be redirected without notice.
 3. Basketball Court – The Board discussed the condition of the Basketball Court and advised that funding should be provided in the budget for the renovation of this intensely used facility. The Board added that concentration on providing for the maintenance, and renovation if needed of all existing facilities be provided first before new facilities are built.

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tentatively, August 26, 2015 at 7 PM.

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.

Minutes of July 15, 2015 were approved on _____

By: _____
Dan Keys, Chair